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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps to conduct geophysical survey for portions of Warwick subdivision at Vista Lakes

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today its plans for investigation of portions of the Warwick subdivision as Vista Lakes, immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Pinecastle Jeep Range.

The expanded investigation will be included in the Corps' current work, as a result of the recent discovery of two 23-pound inert practice bombs in the Warwick subdivision by a private contractor working for Lennar Homes. The munitions were disposed of by Patrick Air Force Base. Due to these discoveries, the Corps of Engineers took immediate action to extend its investigation of the Pinecastle Jeep Range to include portions of the Warwick subdivision, which were inside early renderings of the bomb target circles.

"The Corps' number one priority is public health and safety," said Mike Fulford, deputy district engineer for project management. "We have followed the correct process, as prescribed by the law under which we perform this type of work, and we are pleased that we now have appropriate authority and funding to investigate within the Warwick community. We are especially grateful to the community for their patience as we worked through this process."

Beginning in early 2008, the Corps will conduct a geophysical subsurface investigation of the Warwick properties, Morrison Homes homeowners, nearest to the boundary of the Pinecastle Jeep Range site. If munitions are found on those properties, they will be removed.



Properties already investigated by Lennar Homes will be addressed under the broader Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), planned for the remainder of the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site. This investigation is scheduled to begin later in 2008.

The Corps' cleanup efforts currently under way include the Odyssey Middle School grounds and a portion of the Mockingbird, LLC property closest to the school. As with previously completed work and work currently under way, a phased approach will prioritize and address the areas that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered munitions, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3 Rs" of munitions safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleans up sites that were formerly used by the military. In 1943, the U.S. government leased 12,483 acres of land in Orlando (Orange County) as an off-post site of the Pinecastle Army Airfield, for use as a gunnery and demonstration range. The site was declared surplus property and all leases were terminated on Dec. 4, 1947.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the Pinecastle Jeep Range link or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.

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